09/719978 525 Rec'd PCT/PTO 18 DEC 2000

PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Steven BALL

Serial No. (unknown)

Filed herewith

METHOD FOR OBTAINING MODIFIED POLYSACCHARIDES

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

## IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 4, lines 1 and 2, change "any one of the preceding claims" to --claim 1--.

Claim 5, Tines 1 and 2, change "any one of the preceding claims" to --claim 1--.

Claim 6, lines 8 and 9, change "any one of the preceding claims" to --claim 1---

Claim 15, line 2, cancel "or 14".

Add the following new claim:

--18. Claming and/or expression vector comprising a nucleotide sequence as defined in claim 14.--

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

Ву

Benoît Castel Attorney for Applicant Registration No. 35,041 745 South 23rd Street Arlington, VA 22202

Telephone: 703/521-2297

December 18, 2000